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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of : Frans Eduard Janssens *et al.*

5 Intl. Appln. No. : PCT/EP00/05677 Group No. : Not Yet Assigned

Intl. Filing Date : 20 June 2000 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

For : Respiratory Syncytial Virus Replication Inhibitors

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## BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

15 Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

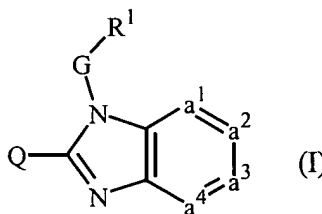
Prior to action on the merits, applicants request that the above-identified application be amended.

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In the claims:

Please amend claims 1-15 as follows:

25 1. A compound of formula

a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein -a<sup>1</sup>=a<sup>2</sup>-a<sup>3</sup>=a<sup>4</sup>- represents a bivalent radical of formula

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-CH=CH-CH=CH- (a-1);

-N=CH-CH=CH- (a-2);

-CH=N-CH=CH- (a-3);

-CH=CH-N=CH- (a-4); or

-CH=CH-CH=N- (a-5);